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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Attached hereto is a replacement drawing sheet labeled "Replacement Sheet." This replacement sheet, which contains Figures 5A to 5E, replaces the originally filed drawing sheet containing Figures 5A to 5E. The single change to the drawings involves inserting a reference number "513" and a leader to a surface of the subject in Figure 5B, as described in the original specification at page 8, line 19. The Examiner is respectfully requested to approve this change.

Attachment: one (1) "Replacement Sheet"

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REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks advanced below, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims.

Prior to the present response, claims 1-18 were pending. With the above changes, claims 1-3 and 5-18 are amended, and new claims 19-23 are added. Accordingly, claims 1-23 currently are pending.

Independent claims 1-3 are amended to recite the feature of "a unit for applying a voltage to a predetermined electrode among the plurality of second electrodes." Support for these amendments is found in original claims 7-9 and in the description starting on page 7 of the specification, for example. Claims 5-18 are amended to better claim the invention, the subject matter of claims 19-21 corresponds to amendments of claims 7-9, respectively, and the subject matter of claims 22 and 23 corresponds to amendments of claims 16 and 17, respectively.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to Figure 5B because the reference number 513 is not shown as mentioned in the specification. In response, Applicant submits herewith a replacement drawing sheet, which includes the reference number 513. It is respectfully submitted that this drawing change fully address the Examiner's concerns.

On pages 3 to 5 of the Action, claims 1 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

§ 102 as allegedly being anticipated by Babko-Malyi (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0106788), and claims 2-6, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over the Babko-Malyi publication. These rejections are respectfully traversed, insofar that the Office may consider that they would apply to the amended claims.

In connection with claim 1, the Office alleges, with reference to Figures 1-6 and paragraphs 0027-0029, 0030, and 0034-0039, that the Babko-Malyi publication teaches an atmospheric plasma apparatus comprising a plasma generation unit (Figures 1a, 1b and 2) including a receiving first electrode 16 and a plurality of segmented second electrodes 12 opposed to the first electrode 16, a gas supply unit (not shown) for introducing a process gas into a space 19 between the first electrode 16 and the plurality of second electrodes 12, and that the plurality of plasma generation units are arranged linearly in one line or a plurality of lines. However, claim 1 as amended now recites a unit for applying a voltage to a predetermined electrode among the plurality of second electrodes. It is respectfully submitted that the Babko-Malyi publication does not describe such a feature. Rather, Babko-

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Malyi discloses, in paragraph 0027 and Figure 1a, that the segmented electrodes are connected to a high voltage power supply 10 with a voltage differential applied therebetween. From this point of view, it would appear that a voltage is supplied to all of segmented electrodes each time a voltage is applied. Thus, the Babko-Malyi publication does not teach a unit for selectively applying a voltage to a predetermined electrode, as recited in amended claim 1. As such, it does not anticipate claim 1 nor any claim depending therefrom.

Each of independent claims 2 and 3 recite, among other things, a unit for applying a voltage to a predetermined electrode among the plurality of second electrodes. As pointed out above, the Babko-Malyi publication fails to teach or suggest such a feature. Thus, claims 2 and 3 also define subject matter that patentable.

Finally, pages 5 to 6 of the Action include rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, of claims 7-9 and 16-18 as allegedly being obvious over Babko-Malyi in view of Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0064597), and of claims 10-12 as allegedly being obvious over Babko-Malyi in view of Seki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,538,387). These rejections are respectfully traversed, as neither the Suzuki et al. publication nor the Seki et al. patent remedy the shortcomings pointed out above with respect to the Babko-Malyi publication.

For instance, the Examiner asserts, with reference to Figure 1 of the Suzuki et al. patent, that Suzuki et al. teaches that an atmospheric pressure plasma apparatus that has a high voltage power supply 22 and a control device that controls the voltage applied between the electrodes 14, 16, depending on the process conditions like type and size of substrate materials to be processed, that the control device can pulse the supplied voltage, and that the control device can also control the timing and duration of application of voltage pulses. However, Suzuki et al. merely discloses two electrodes 14, 16 for generating plasma therebetween and the control circuit 20, and fails to teach the unit for applying the voltage to the predetermined electrode among the plurality of electrodes, as recited in amended claims 1-3, and thus also in the dependent claims. Likewise, the disclosure relied upon from the Seki et al. patent relating using a plasma apparatus to dry etch and pattern thin films does not teach or suggest "a unit for applying a voltage to a predetermined electrode among the plurality of second electrodes," as set forth in the independent claims.

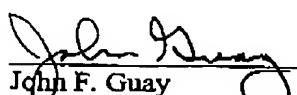
Thus, the claimed invention cannot be obtained even when considering the proposed combinations of the Babko-Malyi publication with the Suzuki et al. or Seki et al. documents.

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Consequently, a *prima facie* case of obviousness does not exist in any combination of references proposed in the Office Action.

All objections and rejections having been addressed above, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt notification of the same is earnestly sought.

Respectfully submitted,


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